



Department of Justice

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JURY CONVICTS COLUMBUS MAN OF GUN, DRUG CRIMES

Convictions carry mandatory 75-year minimum sentences

COLUMBUS – A federal court jury here has convicted Jermaine M. Riley, age 24, of crimes connected with his scheme to manufacture and sell crack cocaine in Columbus and Delaware, Ohio and illegally protect the operation with firearms. Punishment for the crimes will be a minimum mandatory sentence of 75 years imprisonment and the possibility of life imprisonment.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio; Christopher Sadowski, Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Delaware Police Chief Russell Martin, and Acting Columbus Police Chief Gary J. Thatcher announced the verdict returned last night at the conclusion of a trial that began December 8th before U.S. District Judge Michael H. Watson.

The jury convicted Riley of one count of conspiracy to manufacture crack cocaine, punishable by at least 20 years and up to life imprisonment. Riley was also convicted of two counts of distribution of crack cocaine. Each count is punishable by up to 20 years imprisonment.

The jury convicted Riley of two counts of possession with intent to distribute more than five grams of crack cocaine (each punishable by 5 to 40 years imprisonment), three counts of possession with intent to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine (punishable by 10 years to life imprisonment) and three counts of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

Under federal laws, conviction on the first count of possession of a firearm is punishable by a mandatory sentence of five years imprisonment. Conviction on subsequent counts is punishable by 25 years imprisonment. All sentences for gun charges must be served consecutive to any other time served.

Evidence presented during the trial included firearms and items used to manufacture crack cocaine that were seized by police when they searched his residence and arrested him in April 2007.

Delaware Police began investigating Riley in October, 2005 following his arrest for drug possession there.

When Columbus Police arrested Riley, they found equipment used to manufacture crack cocaine as well as two assault rifles.

A grand jury indicted Jermaine Riley, his brother Antoine Riley, and two associates, Vandell C. Mitchell and Michael E. Koogler on November 13, 2007.

Mitchell pleaded guilty on June 13, 2008 to conspiracy. Koogler pleaded guilty on May 13, 2008 to possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine. He is awaiting sentencing. Charges are pending against Antoine Riley.

Lockhart commended the cooperative investigation by officers of the Delaware and Columbus police departments and ATF agents, as well as Assistant U.S. Attorney David Devillers, who prosecuted the case.

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